

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 4, 2005. Claims 1-50 are pending. The Office Action states that claims 5, 6, 8-15, 22-33, 38, 39 and 41-50 have been allowed. By this Amendment, independent claims 1-3 and 34-36 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 7, 16-21, 34-37 and 40 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 1-3 and 34-36 being in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 7, 16-21, 34-37 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,631,431 to Silvkoff.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1-3 and 34-36 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to facsimile image transmission and/or facsimile polling operations wherein a facsimile apparatus including a scanner and a plotter is provided with a plurality of boxes each associated with a corresponding F-code. The facsimile apparatus executes a center-machine application for facsimile communication services. For each box, a corresponding F-code, box name and password are registered for the box. When a transmission side wishes to transmit a scanned facsimile image to the box, the corresponding F-code is embedded in a setup signal transmitted during the pre-transmission procedure. The center-machine facsimile apparatus stores the received facsimile image information in the box associated with the F-code. A user of the destination can retrieve the facsimile from the box by entering the F-code and password associated with the box.

In the claimed invention of independent claims 1-3 and 34-36, a user is prompted for a F-code when the user operates the above-mentioned facsimile apparatus (including scanner) to perform facsimile image transmission (for example, independent claim 1, 3, 34 or 36) or to

produce a facsimile polling document (for example, independent claim 2 or 35). The F-code entered by the user is compared with F-codes registered with corresponding boxes of the apparatus. The facsimile image transmission operation or facsimile polling document producing operation is accepted only after the entered F-code is matched to a registered F-code.

Silvkoff, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a serial data communication bus controller, compliant with the CAN (Controller Area Network) bus standard.

The Examiner has taken the position that the statement in Silvkoff (column 1, lines 17-22) that “CAN (Control Area Network) is an industry-standard, two-wire serial communications bus that is widely used in ... office automation equipment, consumer appliances, and many other products and applications” suggests that the disclosure can be applied to a facsimile apparatus.

As previously discussed with the Examiner, Applicant disagrees. The terms “facsimile” or “fax” are never used in Silvkoff. Although, CAN-based serial communication can be used for office automation, Silvkoff is directed to ensuring data integrity (that is, whether the data is in a complete form, ready for use), and not to authenticate a received facsimile image transmission.

Moreover, the techniques disclosed by Silvkoff do not disclose or suggest a facsimile apparatus including a scanner and a plotter, as provided by the claimed invention of independent claims 1-3 and 34-36. Indeed, the terms “scanner”, “scan”, “plotter” and “print” are never used in Silvkoff.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1-3 and 34-36, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

The Office Action indicates that claims 5, 6, 8-15, 22-33, 38, 39 and 41-50 have been allowed.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the Office

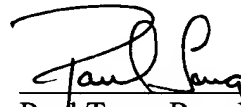
Action and submits that the allowed claims recite subject matter which further supports patentability for reasons in addition to those identified in the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the Office Action.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

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